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The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Gentleman may make his own calculations. I have no idea about it."

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" மழை காலங்களில் நடை பாதைகளில் வசிக்கக்கூடிய குழந்தைகளையும் தாய்மார்களையுமாவது ஒரு நல்ல இடத்தில் வைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் முன் வருவார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already told the House about the scheme of the Corporation, which this State has forwarded to the Government of India with its recommendation."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" In the absence of a suitable scheme with the Government to house these pavement-dwellers in the City of Madras, the Corporation of Madras have evolved their own scheme which they have forwarded to the Government of India. Is it not a fact that when this scheme was forwarded to the Madras Government, the Madras Government refused to give their share of subsidy and that they asked the Corporation to revise the scheme and then only to wait in deputation on the Central Government for the entire subsidy? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The Madras Government have recommended that Rs. 65 lakhs may be given for the scheme in the first year. A portion of this amount is supposed to be met by the Madras Government."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it the contention of the Government that the duty of looking after these destitutes is cast only on the local bodies and that the function of the Government is confined only to looking after the welfare of well-to-do people? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" It is the duty of the local bodies to provide for such people in cities and towns. In the rural areas the Government have to provide for the houseless people."

Sri C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Has any census of these pavement-dwellers been taken? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" I said that the approximate number was 2,000 families. This is the information I got from the Commissioner of the Corporation this morning."

Construction of an Upper Bhavani Dam in Coimbatore district.

* 687 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any plan was formulated in 1926 for the construction of an Upper Bhavani Dam in Coimbatore district ;

(*b*) if so, how many acres of land were expected to be irrigated after the construction of the dam;

(*c*) the number of taluks which were to be benefited by it; and

(*d*) the total cost of its construction?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) A scheme for a reservoir on the Upper Bhavani was formulated in 1905. In 1926 there was investigation by a Special Officer of the revenue and other aspects of this project, which was then proposed to consist of two reservoirs on the Upper Bhavani.

"(*b*) Originally it was assumed that 420,000 acres could be irrigated in the two seasons together but the special investigation showed that only 178,800 acres could be irrigated.

" (*c*) 7. (Coimbatore, Palladam, Satyamangalam, Erode, Pollachi, Udumalpet and Dharapuram.)

" (*d*) Rs. 487·85 lakhs as estimated in 1925."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" இந்தத் திட்டம் அதிகப்படியான ஜனங்களுக்கு பிரயோஜனமாக இருந்தும், என் கைவிடப்பட்டது ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The then Government considered the relative aspects of both the Lower and the Upper Bhavani Schemes. They have discarded the latter in favour of the one which has come into existence."

SRI K. G. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER :—" இந்தத் திட்டமானது கோவை ஜில்லாவுக்கு ஒரு முக்கியமான திட்டமாக இருப்பதாலும் அதிலும் குறிப்பாக பஞ்சத்தினால் பாதிக்கப்படக்கூடிய பல்லடம், தாராபுரம் முதலிய இடங்களுக்கு சாதகமாக இருக்கக்கூடிய ஒரு திட்டமானதால் இதை இரண்டாவது ஐந்து வருடத் திட்டத்தில் சேர்க்க சர்க்கார் முயற்சிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" We cannot take up this project after the Lower Bhavani Project has come into existence because there will be no water sufficient for both."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" நீலகிரியிலிருந்து வருகிற இந்த கல்லாற்றுத் தண்ணீரால் மேல் பவானிக்கு போதுமான ஜல சப்ளை கிடைக்குமாதலால் இதை இரண்டாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத்திட்டத்தில் சேர்த்துக் கொள்ளுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have already stated that there is no possibility of having another project, namely, the Upper Bhavani Project. But if the hon. Member is suggesting some other scheme, I shall have it examined."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" சர்க்கார் முதலில் பரிசீலனைக்கு எடுத்துக் கொண்டது கீழ் பவானி திட்டமா, அல்லது மேல் பவானி திட்டமா ? "

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Both have been examined and then the Government have decided in favour of the Lower Bhavani Project." 8-20. a.m.

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER :—" Will the Government be in a position to enlighten this House as to why they decided to construct the Lower Bhavani Project instead of the Upper Project which would have served the needs of the famine-affected areas of Palladam, Dharapuram and Erode? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Expert advice has been sought in that connection and most of the M.L.As. of that time, including the hon. Member, I was told, were consulted in the matter (laughter) and that decision has been taken."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" சர்வே எல்லாம் முடிந்த பிற்பாடு இந்தத் திட்டம் என் கைவிடப்பட்டது என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Government, who considered the two schemes thought that the present scheme which has come into existence will be the best scheme. So they have given up the other one."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER :—" Even though I was one of the Members in the conference in which the then Hon. Public Works Minister consulted us in the matter, as this question has now been raised on the floor of the House, I want an explanation from the Government . . ."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, is it in the form of a question? "

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER :—" In view of the changed circumstances and in view of the frequent famines in several parts of Coimbatore, will the Government re-examine the construction of the Upper Bhavani Project and see that sufficient water is made available? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have already stated that there is no possibility for having two schemes at the same time. Now that the Lower Bhavani Project has come into existence, there is no scope whatsoever for the other Project. That is the expert advice which we have obtained. So there is no point in re-examining the whole affair."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" பெரும்பாலான காங்கிரஸ் அங்கத்தினர்கள் மேல் பவானித் திட்டத்தை அதிகமாக வலியுறுத்துவதினால் கீழ் பவானித் திட்டத்தை இடித்துவிட்டாவது இதைக் கட்டுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I know Tanjore people will always like its demolition."